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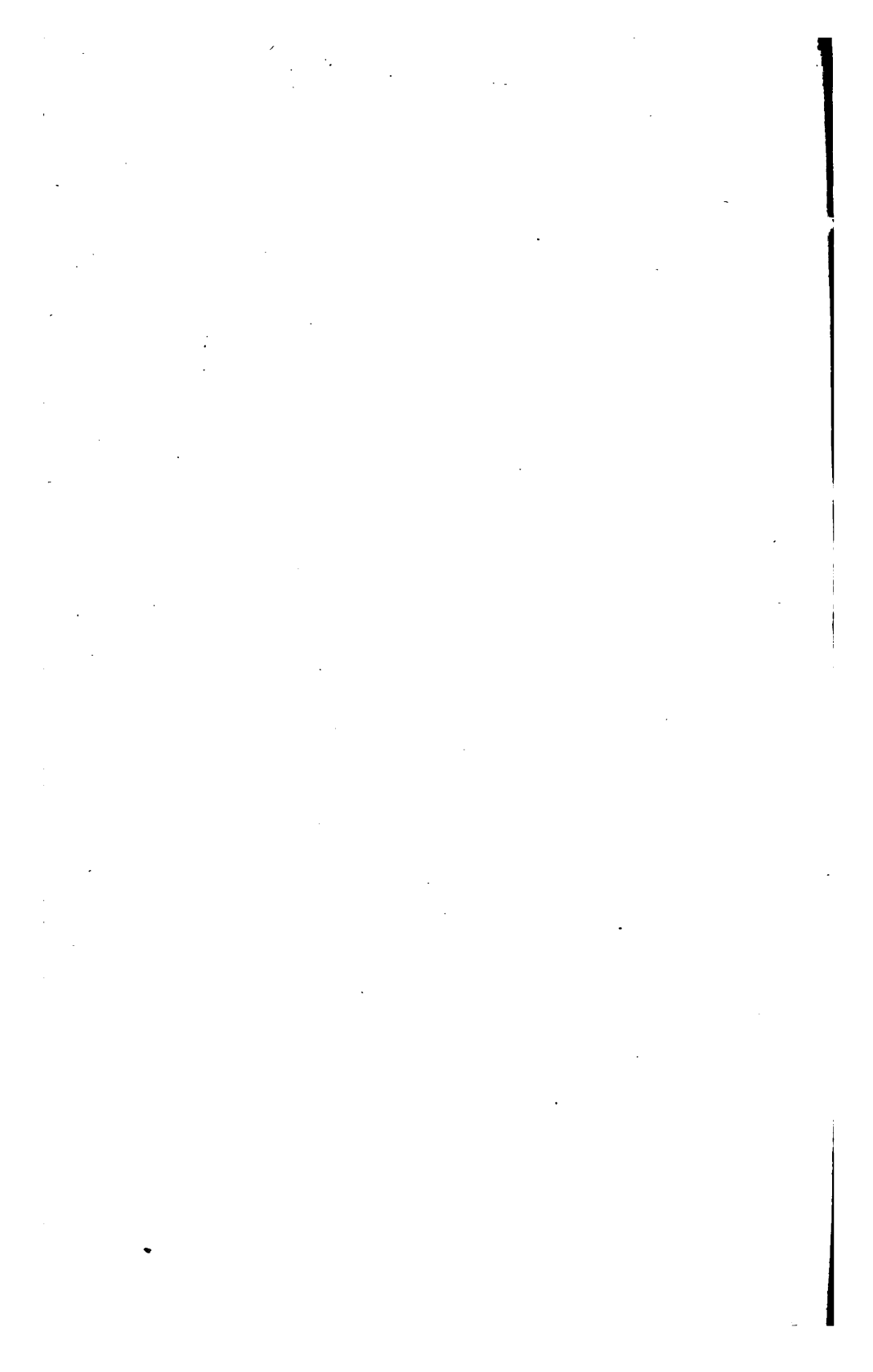
Head Masters
of
Lewisham Grammar School

1652 to 1894.

LONDON:

Charles North, Blackbeath Printing Works, S.E.

1894.



Lewisham Antiquarian Society.

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Publ. 7.

A List

of

The Head Masters

of

Colfe's Grammar School, Lewisham,

from its Foundation, 1652, to the present time,

Edited by

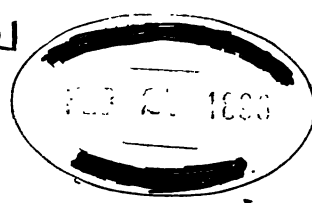
Leland L. Duncan, F.S.A.

London.

1894.

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Colfe's Grammar School, Lewisham.

List of Head Masters.

The following list of Head Masters has been prepared as an appendix to the paper read before this Society by Dr. Bramley, at the Grammar School, in June, 1888, on the Life and Times of the Rev. Abraham Colfe, vicar of Lewisham 1610 to 1657, and Founder of the School.

It should be explained that the school possesses no registers or records that throw any light either on the Head Masters or their method of work, and the information in one or two instances might well be extended. I should, therefore, be glad of any notes on the subject which will amplify these short biographies of the men who have presided over Lewisham's oldest institution (next to the Parish Church) since its foundation by Mr. Colfe two and a half centuries ago.

In the paper referred to above (which has been printed) will be found an account of the school and its founder; but it will not be out of place here to append the directions given by Mr. Colfe in his will for the election of the Head Master:—

"Item, my will is that from the month of April, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty-Six, and thence forward only, Thirty Pounds of lawful money shall be paid every year, yearly, out of my estate, for teaching Thirty-One Youths or Male Children of the Laity, besides the Children of the Ministers incumbent, chosen out of all the Parishes of the Hundred of Blackheath freely, to a learned Scholar and exact Grammarian, who is sound in the true Religion, and testified and found to be of an honest, upright and godly life, and shall be examined and approved by Three of the chief Schoolmasters of Three of the chief Free Schools in and about the City of London, namely, at Westminster, at Paul's, and at Merchant Taylors' School; also by the President and Deans and Assistants of Sion College in London, and by the several Pastors and Ministers incumbent (being lawfully ordained ministers) of Greenwich, Deptford, Charlton, Woolwich, Eltham, Leigh and Lewisham in Kent, under the Hands of the whole, or at least Nine of them, of which number my earnest desire is that the Three chief Schoolmasters before-mentioned, the President of Sion College, the proper Pastors of Greenwich, Deptford, Leigh and Lewisham, being lawfully ordained ministers and nearest the Grammar School, shall set their hands that he is a very able and sufficient

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Head Masters
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Mercer £20. Dated 11 March, 1681. Witnesses John Bickley, Gertrude Bickley, Ales Dandreg."*

On 19th July, 1682, administration of the goods, &c., of Hanna Millington, late of the parish of All Hallows in the Wall, London, widow, deceased, was granted to Elizabeth Pare, wife of John Pare, sister of the deceased.

III.—THE REV. JOHN NEWMAN, 1677–1687,

Was appointed headmaster in 1677, on the death of Mr. Millington. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1672-3, M.A. 1676.

He married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Isaak Tucker, rector of Great Wrattling, Suffolk, and sister of Sarah, the wife of the Rev. John Turner, who succeeded him in the headmastership.

He died in 1687, and was buried at Lewisham. Mrs. Newman died in 1690, and was likewise buried at Lewisham. Their wills are as follows:—

"I, John Newman of Lewissham, co. Kent &c. Appoint my wife Mary Newman, sole ex. and to her my estate in greate Wrattling in the co. of Suffolk both copy hold and free during term of life. To my father and mother £12 a year each for life. And if my wife buryes her child or children soe that she have noe children left then she shall increase it to £18 a year. If she bring forth two children and they be girls the estate to be equally divided betwixt them, but if boys or one of them a girle then the girl and younger boy to have £400 and the eldest to have the rest. If my child or children dy soe that my issue be extinct then my estate in Wrattling to my father and mother. After their decease to my sister Anne Tucker and then to my brother Isaac Tucker and in case both these dye then to Sarah Tucker for her life and in default to Mr. Salisbury Cade of Lewisham Batchelour of Phisick and his heirs for ever. To be buried privatelie. Dated 19 Aug., 1687. John Newman. Witness Salisbury Cade, Sarah Rottel, the mark of Barbary Seader."†

Proved 1st Sept., 1687 by Mary Newman, relict and executrix.

"I, Mary Newman of Wrattling Magna, Suffolk, widdow—this 28 Aug. 1689. To my dau. Mary Tucker Newman £100, with my trunk and whats in it marked M. T., now at Lewisham in my brother Turner's house. To my mother Mrs. Mary Tucker £10 a year. To my brother Arthur Tucker £5 a year. 10/- to those names underwritten:—To my owne father and mother. To my father-in-law and my mother-in-law. To my brother Turner and his wife. To my brother Isaac and Arthur Tucker. To my sister Ann. To Mrs. Rouse and her dau. To Mrs. Phillip scholl mistresse of Greenwich. To Mrs. Rottre. Rest to my father Mr. Isaac Tucker and my brother Mr. Isaac Tucker of Ashby Cumenby in Lincoln-

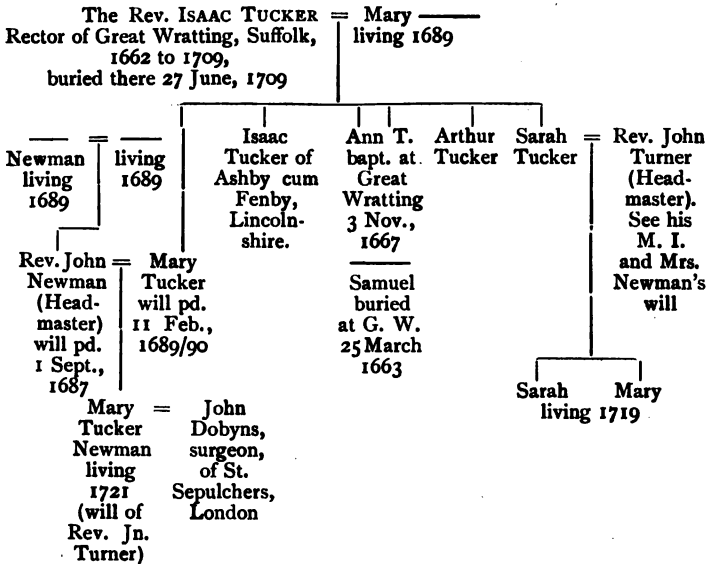
* P.C.C., 87 Cottle.

† P.C.C., 117 Foot.

shire, exors., who with Madam Ball her godmother I make gardians of my said daughter. (Signed) Mary Newman. Wit. Thos. Wyatt, Sarah Hemsted."*

Proved 11th Feb., 1689-90, by Isaac Tucker, father, and reservation to Isaac Tucker, brother, the other executor.

PEDIGREE FROM WILLS, &c.



IV.—THE REV. JOHN TURNER, 1687—1704,

Was born at Uttoxeter, co. Stafford, the following being the entry in the Baptism Register: "Dec., 1660, John the son of Richard Turner and Patience his wife, baptized ye 11th day." The epitaph given below implies that he received his early education in that town, and passing to Trinity College, Cambridge, he took B.A. 1679 and M.A. 1683. In 1687 he was appointed headmaster on Mr. Newman's death, but resigned in 1704, on his appointment to the vicarage of Greenwich in December of that year. In 1706 he received the degree of S.T.P. He was Chaplain in Ordinary to George I, was appointed a Prebendary of Lincoln 1713, and Canon of Canterbury 1717. He was Boyle Lecturer in 1708, and was author of a few theological treatises. He died at Canterbury 7th December, 1720, aged 60, and there is the following inscription to him in the Cathedral Church:—

"Propè hoc marmor, quod mortale habuit reliquit vir pietate & morum suavitate insignis Johannes Turner, S.T.P., qui in defenden-

* P.C.C., 27 Dyke.

dis Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ Juribus, strenuum se gessit Athletam ; in asserendo doctrinæ Redemptionis Salvatoris nostri mystum pium, in debito Regi obsequio præstando Subditum fidelem, Utoxeter in agro Stafford, eum nascentem cunis excepit A.D. 1660 die 16 Nov. Schola Patria imprimis doctrinæ Elementis erudit ; Collegium Trinitatis Cantabr. ad penitiora scientiarum adyta investiganda admissum, Brabeis & Honoribus auxit ; Quem Schola in Ericâ Ludimagistrum doctissimum ; Grenovicum Pastorem fidelissimum habuit ; Cui Canonitatum in Ecclesiâ Lincoln, gratia Episcopi, in Metropolitâ Cantuariensi Regia assignavit. Uxorem duxerat Saram Tucker clerici* in Agro Suffolk Filiam ; exquâ Filium, & duas Filias genuit. Tandem, cum nihil in Rebus humanis firmum & stabile, febri correptus in Domo suâ Cantuariensi sexagenario major, extremum obiit diem Anno reparatæ Salutis 1720, 7 Decembr. Vidua hoc Pietatis Monumentum P."

The following is an extract of his will :—

"In the name of God, Amen. I John Turner vicar of Greenwich in Kent. My farm house and lands in the Parish of Panfield in Essex bought of Mr. Lyngwood to my daughter Sarah, and other houses &c. in the parishes of Hundent† and Barnardiston† in Suffolk bought of Mr. Bridgman and Mr. Frost to my daughter Mary. Other money in South Sea Company Lottery Annuities &c. to my wife Sarah Turner and my two daughters Sarah and Mary Turner. My Books to be sold and money with what may be due to me from my vicarage or my Prebend of Canterbury or my Prebend of Lincoln to pay debts &c. Signed 9th September 1719, J. Turner. Witnesses, J. Cowper, Wm. Herringham, Wm. Penny.

"I hereby discharge my brother Daniel Turner of all bonds. I think myself bound in conscience here to declare that the £30 lottery annuity in the Bank of England which is in my name is the Improvement of Mrs. Stirt's legacy to the Girls' Charity Schole and also £350 under my name in the four per cent. annuity is Mrs. Dobyns money which should be laid out in a purchase according to marriage settlements."‡

In April, 1721, appeared Sarah Turner, of Greenwich in Kent, spinster, and Mary Tucker Dobyns, wife of John Dobyns, surgeon, of St. Sepulcher's, London, and deposed they knew the Rev. Doctor John Turner, late vicar of Greenwich, and were acquainted with his handwriting, and that the will, with alterations, &c., is in his handwriting.

Proved by Sara Turner, widow and relict, 15th April, 1721.

* The Rev. Isaac Tucker, Rector of Great Wrating, Suffolk.

† Both parishes bordering on Great Wrating.

‡ P.C.C., 78 Buckingham.

V.—THE REV. THOMAS DAVIES, 1704–1710,

Was appointed in 1704 on Mr. Turner's resignation. He appears to have been Chaplain of Morden College previously, having been appointed by the founder, Sir John Morden, on 25 Oct., 1702, and held the post for about two and a half years [communicated by the treasurer, Mr. Rivers].

Add. MS. 10602, British Museum, contains some papers written by him on the state of the school buildings, etc., when he took them over from Dr. Turner.

In the absence of any records it has been found impossible to state positively the early history of Mr. Davies, but he was possibly the son of Thomas Davies, Sheriff of London (afterwards knighted), and was educated at Trinity College, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1686, aged 15; B.A. from Oriel College, 1690, and M.A. from Emanuel College, Cambridge, 1704; of Lincoln's Inn, 1687.—(*Vide* Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.)

VI.—THE REV. JAMES RICHARDSON, 1710–1733,

Was the son of Mr. Thomas Richardson, of Crosby Garrett, Westmoreland. Matriculated 9 Dec., 1700, aged 18, Queen's College, Oxford, B.A. 1705, M.A. 19 Jan., 1708–9 (Foster's *Alumni Oxon.*). He became Prebendary (Offley) of Lichfield, 1722, and Reading Chaplain at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, 30 Dec., 1732, in succession to Rev. Geo. Carleton, M.A., appointed Sub-dean. He resigned the headmastership in 1733. He was presented to the Vicarage of High Offley, co. Stafford, 1737. His successor in the Prebend was appointed 15 July, 1748.

The following entries in the local registers refer to him :—

Lewisham, Baptisms.

1 July, 1719. Robert Peter, son of James Richardson, Master of y^e Grammar School.

Lee, Burials.

26 Mar., 1714. Nathaniel, son of Mr. James and Jane Richardson.

26 May, 1715. James, son of Mr. James and Jane Richardson.

28 July, 1716. Henry, son of Mr. James Richardson.

24 Nov., 1719. Robert Peter, son of Mr. James Richardson.

VII.—THE REV. EDWARD NORTON, 1733–1763,

Succeeded on the resignation of Mr. Richardson. He was the son of Mr. John Norton, and was educated at Westminster. From thence he went to St. John's College, Cambridge, and took B.A. 1718 and M.A. 1722. Shortly afterwards he became Curate at Greenwich (1725–27), and in 1733 was appointed Headmaster of the Grammar School, as stated above. He resigned in 1763, and died in 1767,

being buried in Lewisham Churchyard on 5th February in that year. The flat stone over his tomb has this inscription :—

"The Rev. Edward Norton, M.A., Master of Blackheath School, died January 30, 1767, aged 72. Catherine Norton, wife of the above Edward Norton, died November, 1770, aged 62."

She was buried on the 28th November, 1770, according to the Register.

Administration of his estate was granted on 27 Feb., 1767, "to Catherine Norton, widow and relict of the Rev. Edward Norton, late of Dartmouth Row, in the co. of Kent, clerk."

On Mrs. Norton's death, administration was granted on 10 Dec., 1770, to Sarah Jennings, widow, "daughter of Catherine Norton, late of Lewisham, deceased."

Mr. Norton had several children, and the following extracts from local registers may be of interest :—

Greenwich, Baptisms.

- 4 Jan., 1732. Catherine, dau. of Rev. Edwd. and Cathn. Norton.
 30 Nov., 1731. Sarah, dau. of Rev. Edwd. and Cathn. Norton.
 [This latter married her father's successor at the School, Mr. Jennings, and on his death married his successor, Mr. Wm. Williams.]

Lewisham, Baptisms.

- 14 July, 1735. James, son of Rev. Edward Norton.
 ——— 1736. ——— of Rev. Edwd. Norton.
 24 Nov., 1737. George, son of Rev. Edward Norton, from the Latin free School.
 13 June, 1740. Anne, dau. of Edward Norton, Schoolmaster, Blackheath.
 16 July, 1741. Richard, son of Edward and Catherine Norton, Schoolmaster.
 1 May, 1743. John, son of Rev. Edward Norton and Catherine his wife.
 25 Aug., 1745. Elisabeth, dau. of Edward and Cathn. Norton.
 19 April, 1749. Thomas, son of Edward and Cathn. Norton.

Lewisham, Burials.

- 12 March, 1733. Edward, son of Rev. Mr. Norton
 14 Sept., 1735. James, son of Edward Norton.
 30 Sept., 1743. John, son of Edward and Catherine Norton.
 12 Feb., 1749. Thomas, son of Rev. Mr. Edward Norton.
 11 May, 1750. Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Norton.

VIII.—THE REV. THOMAS JENNINGS, 1763–1767.

He was son of Mr. William Jennings, of Hartwell, co. Northants, and was educated at Christ's College, Oxford (matriculated 6 April, 1754, aged 18). He took B.A. and M.A. 1762 (*vide* Foster's Alumni Oxon.). He was appointed Headmaster in 1763 on Mr. Norton's resignation, having married the latter's daughter, Sarah, in December, 1762, at Lewisham Church.

He died in 1767 and was buried in Lewisham churchyard on 23 July. There was a stone to him in Lyson's time, but it is now gone. Sarah, his widow, married his successor, the Rev. Wm. Williams.

The following is an extract of his will :—

"Thomas Jennings of Lewisham, Kent. To be buried in Lewisham chyd^d in a grave of Earth in as homely a manner as may be. All Household furniture, Live Stock, Linnen, Books, papers, plate, rings and the watch she wears I bequeath unto my wife Sarah Jennings for her sole use and property £500. Between my two sisters Ann and Christian Jennings residue of the moneys I shall die possessed of. I leave the use of to my wife the moneys themselves at her decease to be divided between my children except £200 I beg her acceptance of to appropriate to what purpose she pleases. Dated 25 Feb. 1767. Thomas Jennings."*

On 25 Aug., 1767, appeared the Revd. William Williams, of Lewisham, Kent, Clerk, and Robert Jennings, of Cowley Street, in the parish of St. John, Westminster, Gent. William Williams says he knew the Rev. Thos. Jennings of Lewisham, deceased, who died, so he is informed, on the 21st July last, and Robt. Jennings says he was well acquainted with deceased, and that the handwriting of the will is that of the deceased.

Proved at London 27 Aug., 1767, by oath of Sarah Jennings, relict and executrix.

IX.—THE REV. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, 1767–1793,

Was the son of Mr. William Williams, of Ystradmeurig, co. Cardigan, and was probably educated at the Grammar School there. He matriculated, Jesus College, Oxford, 3rd June, 1756, aged 21. He appears to have taken B.A. 1760, and M.A. 1767. He became headmaster in 1767, and in 1771 married, at Lewisham Church, Sarah, daughter of Rev. Edward Norton and relict of the Rev. Thomas Jennings. She died in 1793, aged 62, and was buried in the churchyard on 19th February, and he followed her on 25th April. He is styled in the burial register "The Rev. Wm. Williams, Master of the Grammar School, Blackheath." On his death Mr. Thomas Constable, apparently the Usher, was appointed to carry on the school work until the new master was selected.

There is a note book in the School Library, dated 1753, which belonged to Mr. Williams, but it only contains excerpts from various English poets and essayists.

There was a stone to him in the churchyard in Mr. Lyson's time, but it has now disappeared.

His will is of more local interest than that of any of his predecessors, and the following is a fairly full extract of it :—

* P.C.C., 310 Legard.

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Lewisham churchyard on _____ time, but it is now _____, the Rev. Wm.

To be buried in _____ by a manner as may be. _____, Books, papers, plate, _____ unto my wife Sarah _____ 100. Between my two _____ of the moneys I shall _____ wife the moneys them- _____ my children except _____ to what purpose she _____ Jennings."*

Dead _____ Wm. Williams, of _____, of Cowley Street, in _____ William Williams says he _____, deceased, who died, _____, and Robt. Jennings says _____ and that the handwriting of

_____ by oath of Sarah Jennings,

Lewisham _____

WILLIAMS, 1767-1793,

_____ of Ystradmeurig, co. Cardigan, _____ Grammar School there. He _____ 3rd June, 1756, aged 21. He _____ and M.A. 1767. He became _____ married, at Lewisham Church, _____ Norton and relict of the Rev. _____ 1793, aged 62, and was buried in _____ and he followed her on 25th April. "The Rev. Wm. Williams, Master _____ death." On his death Mr. Thomas _____, was appointed to carry on the _____ was selected.

_____ School Library, dated 1753, which _____ it only contains excerpts from various

_____ in the churchyard in Mr. Lyson's _____ red.

_____ al interest than that of any of his pre- _____ is a fairly full extract of it :—

Rev. T. Waite, D.C.L., chaplain to H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester and to the hon. and right rev. the Bishop of Oxford, and master of the Grammar School, Lewisham Hill, 1826."

XIV.—THE REV. JOSEPH PRENDERGAST, 1831-1857.

He was of Queen's College, Cambridge; S.T.B. 1836, S.T.P. 1842. He resigned in 1857 and died 29th Dec., 1875, aged 84 years and 6 months, and is buried in Lewisham Cemetery.

He left a considerable amount of money to be employed in educational purposes, and part of this was used in founding the Lewisham Grammar School for Girls.

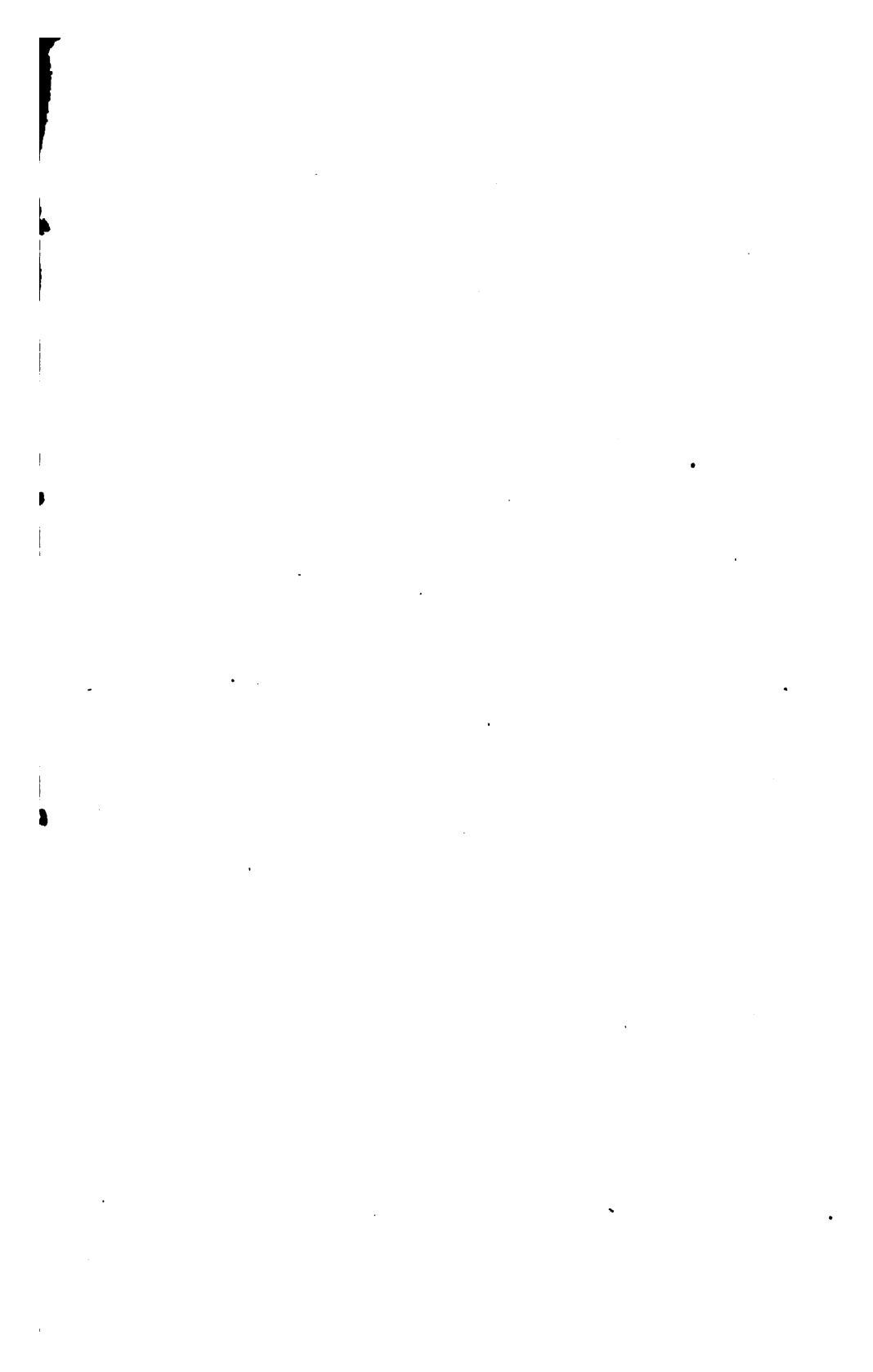
XV.—THE REV. GEORGE FREDERICK LACEY,
1858-1867,

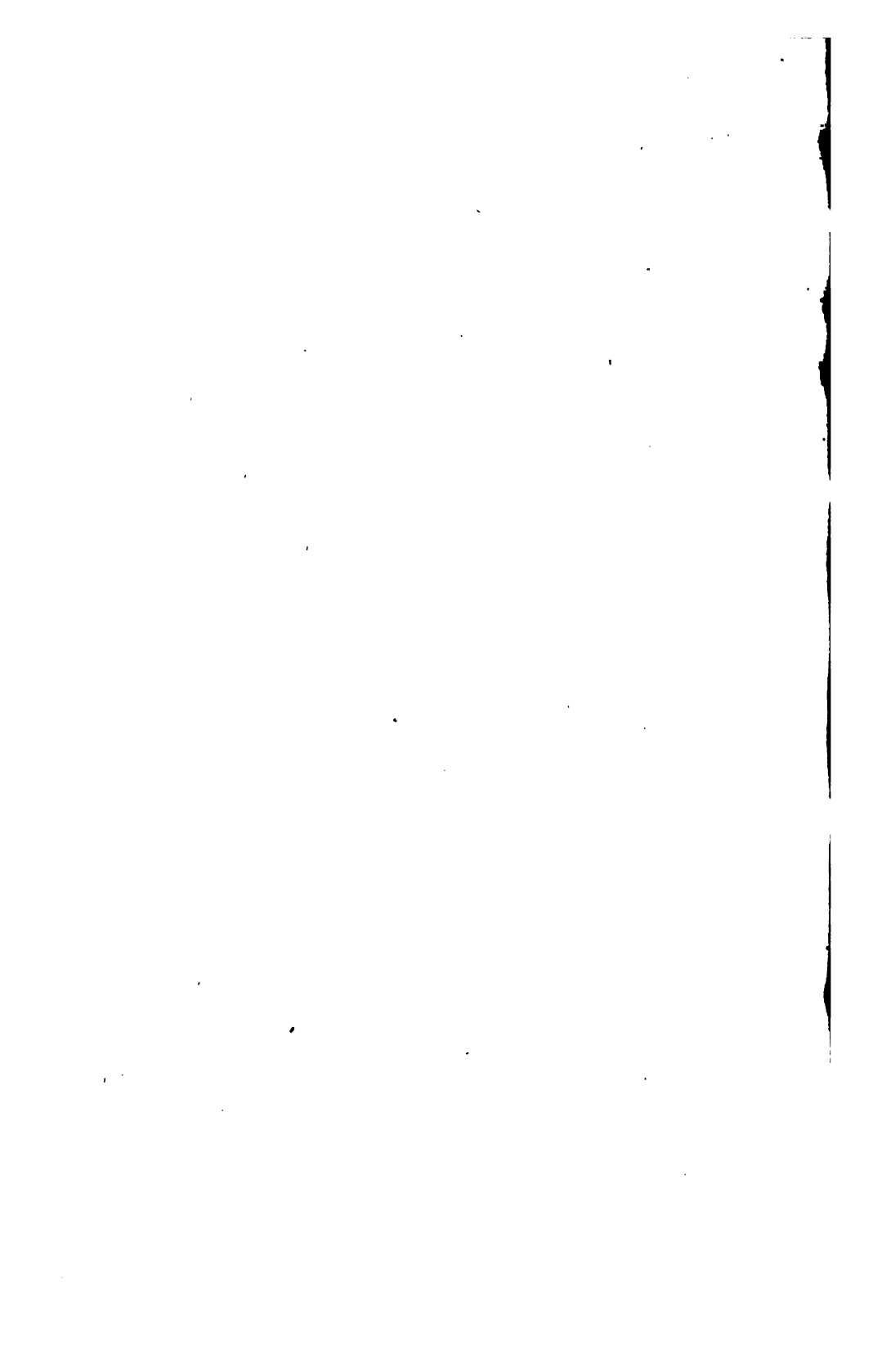
Was of Pembroke College, Cambridge; B.A. 1837, M.A. 1841.

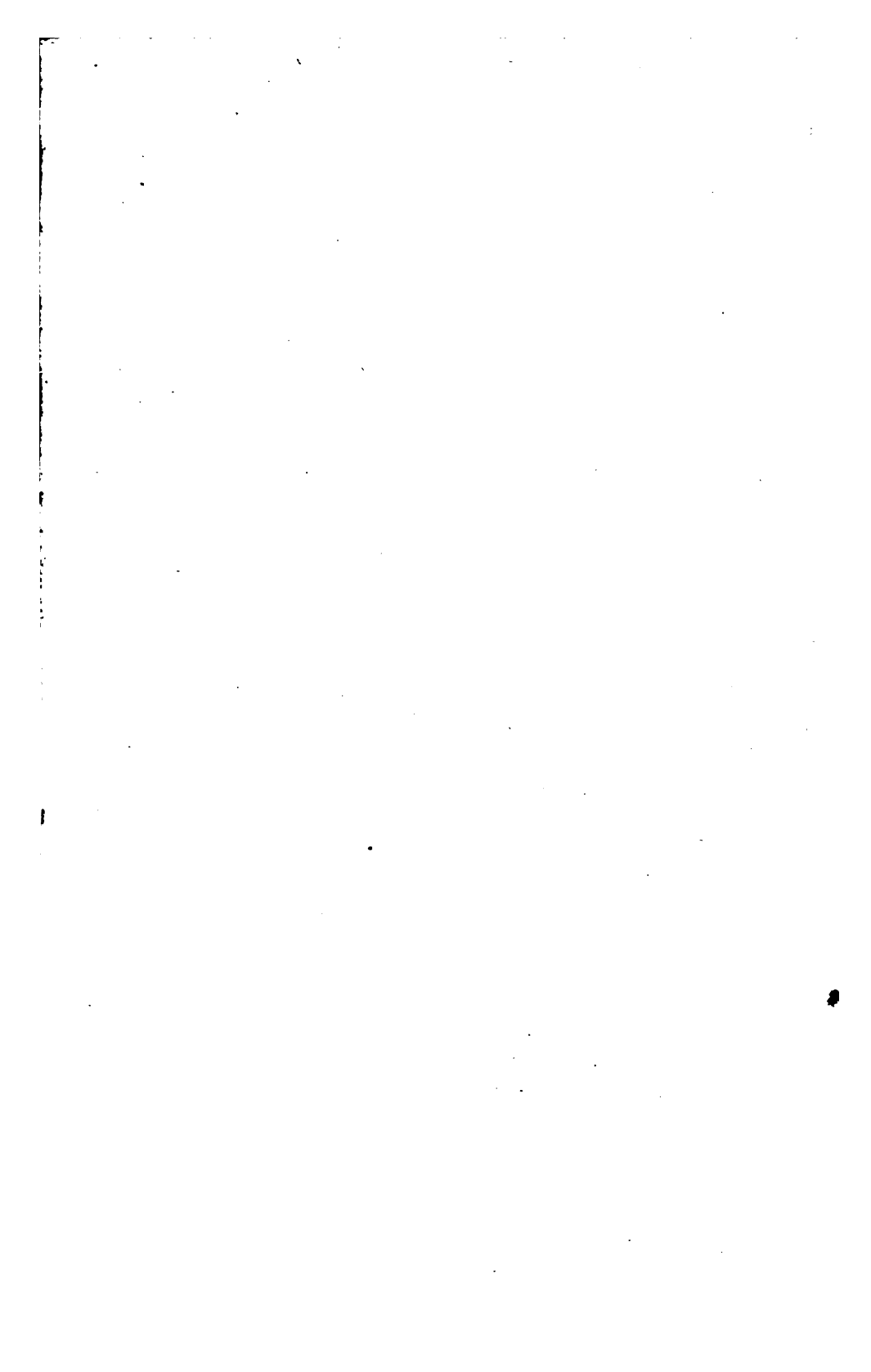
Previous to his appointment to Lewisham he was master at Drogheda. He died in 1867, and is buried in Lewisham Cemetery.

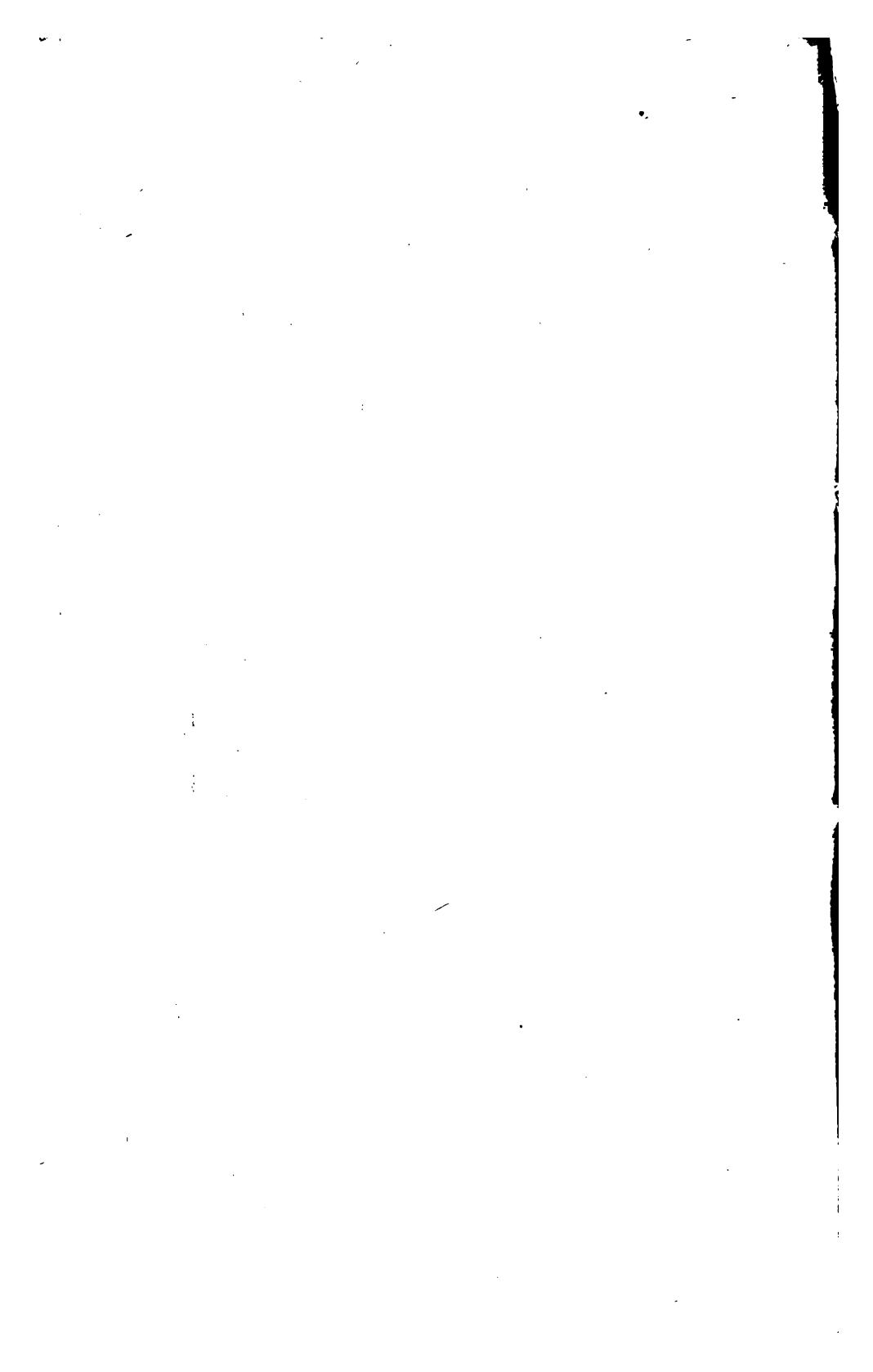
XVI.—THE REV. THOMAS BRAMLEY, 1867,

Was appointed on Mr. Lacey's death in 1867. He is son of Mr. Richard Bramley, of Leeds, Yorkshire, and was educated in the Grammar School there. From thence he went to Queen's College, Oxford, where he matriculated 22nd June, 1854, taking B.A. 1858, M.A. 1861, and S.T.P. 1889.









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